

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information management method in an information processing system including a network capable for dealing with information such as images, music, voice and documents in large volumes at high speeds, comprising the steps of:
 - when connecting a removable storage medium having a storage section including a program storage area storing programs and an information storage area storing
 - 10 information, and an electronic circuit section mounting electronic circuits processing information, to a device on the network,
 - 15 selectively displaying header thumb-nail images corresponding to commercial information such as images, music, voice and documents stored by said storage medium in the information storage area thereof by operating programs stored by said storage medium in the program storage area thereof by cooperation of said device and the electronic circuits; and
 - 20 calling and displaying of corresponding commercial information, and/or purchase of information corresponding to said commercial information, and/or purchase of information corresponding to said commercial information, and/or connection to, or registration of, a service provider on the network corresponding to said commercial
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information, in accordance with selection and instruction
of thumb-nail images desired by the operator.

2. An information management method according to claim
5 1, wherein said method comprises, when purchasing
information corresponding to said commercial information,
downloading the purchased information into the information
storage area of said storage medium, or permitting a
commodity purchase procedure of the purchased information,
10 and when downloading the purchased information in the
information storage area of said storage medium,
registering the header thumb-nail corresponding to said
downloaded information in the information storage area of
said storage medium.

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3. An information management method according to claim
1, wherein said method comprises, when connecting to the
service provider or registration thereof corresponding to
said commercial information, downloading the commercial
20 information of said service provider into the information
storage area of said storage medium, and registering a
header thumb-nail image corresponding to said commercial
information in the information storage area of said storage
medium.

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4. An information management method according to claim
1, comprising the steps of further storing information
prepared by the operator such as images, music, voice and
documents in the information storage area of said storage
5 medium, selectively displaying header thumb-nail images,
and reading out and displaying said information in the same
manner as in said commercial information.
- 10 5. An information management method according to claim
1, wherein said commercial information includes at least
one of a still picture, an animation and voice.
- 15 6. An information management method according to claim
5, wherein said animation includes video information, and
said voice includes music information.
- 20 7. An information management method according to claim
1, wherein said commercial information includes at least
one of network registration and contract information,
various contracts information, current affairs
information, bicycle race and horse race information,
cooking information, fortune-telling information,
calendar information, home page information, guide
information, sales information and rental information.

8. An information management method according to claim
7, wherein said guide information includes sight-seeing
guide, shopping guide, book guide, education guide,
employment guide, housing guide, event guide, marriage
5 guide and fashion guide.

9. An information processing system including a network,
capable of processing information of images, voice and
documents in large volumes at high speeds, comprising:

10 a removable storage medium having a storage section
including a program storage area storing programs and an
information storage area storing information, and an
electronic circuit section mounting electronic circuits
for processing information; and a device on the network
15 dismountably mounting said storage medium;

 wherein said device and said electronic circuit
cooperating with each other when said storage medium is
inserted;

 display means selectively displaying a header
20 thumb-nail image corresponding to commercial information
such as images, music, voice and documents stored by said
storage medium in the information storage area thereof by
operating a program stored by said storage medium in the
program storage area thereof; and

25 service starting means for calling and

displaying of the corresponding commercial information,
and/or purchase of information corresponding to said
commercial information, and/or connection to, or
registration of, a service provider on the network
5 corresponding to said commercial information, in
accordance with selection and instruction of a desired
thumb-nail image by the operator.

10. An information processing system according to claim
10 9, wherein, when purchasing information corresponding to
said commercial information, said system further
comprises:

means for taking commodity purchasing procedure of
information to be purchased;
15 means for downloading the purchased information into
the information storage area of said storage medium when
the purchased information can be downloaded; and
means for registering the header thumb-nail image
corresponding to said downloaded information in the
20 information storage area of said storage medium when
downloading the purchased information in the information
storage area of said storage medium.

11. An information processing system according to claim
25 9, wherein, when connecting to, or registering, a service

provider corresponding to said commercial information,
said system further comprises:

means for downloading commercial information of said
service provider onto the information storage area of said
5 storage medium; and

means for registering the header thumb-nail image
corresponding to said commercial information in the
information storage area of said storage medium.

10 12. An information processing system according to claim
9, wherein said storage medium further stores information
prepared by the operator such as images, music, voice and
documents in the information storage area thereof;

15 said display means selectively displays the header
thumb-nail image corresponding to said information; and

said service starting means reads out and displays
said information like obtaining said commercial
information in accordance with selection and instruction
of the desired thumb-nail image by the operator.

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13. A removable storage medium having a storage section
comprising a program storage area storing programs and an
information storage area storing information, and an
electronic circuit section mounting electronic circuits
25 processing information, storing:

commercial information such as images, music, voice and documents, and thumb-nail information corresponding to said commercial information in said information storage area; and

- 5 a first program module which selectively displays a header thumb-nail image corresponding to the commercial information such as images, music, voice and documents stored by said storage medium in the information storage area thereof, through operation of a program stored by said
10 storage medium in the program storage area thereof by cooperation of an external device and the electronic circuits; and

- 15 a second program module for calling and displaying of commercial information, and/or purchase of information corresponding to said commercial information, and/or connection to, or registration of, a service provider on the network corresponding to said commercial information, in accordance with selection and instruction of a thumb-nail image desired by the operator,
20 in said program storage area.

14. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said second program module comprises, when information corresponding to said commercial information is purchased,
25 the steps of downloading the purchased information in the

information storage area of said storage medium, and registering a header thumb-nail image corresponding to said downloaded information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

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15. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein, when connection to, or registration of, a service provider corresponding to said commercial information has been done, said second program module comprises the steps of
10 downloading the commercial information of said service provider in the information storage area of said storage medium, and registering a header thumb-nail image corresponding to said commercial information in the information storage area of said storage medium.

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16. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the information storage area of said storage medium further stores information such as images, music, voice and documents prepared by an operator; and said first program
20 module comprises the step of selectively displaying the header thumb-nail image corresponding to said information, and said second program module comprises the step of reading out and displaying said information like said commercial information in accordance with selection and
25 instruction of a thumb-nail image desired by the operator.

17. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said storage medium has a special read-only area and a writable area.

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18. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said program storage area further stores a bootstrap program and a system program which is read out by said bootstrap program and controls said first and second program modules.

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19. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and said storage medium is on a side surface, and said electronic circuit section is on the other side surface.